

I'd have to agree that morse code is no longer a practical means of communication, and therefore should no longer be a required part of amateur radio service testing. Arguments saying that morse code is the "backbone" of amateur radio service, or that morse code is one of the most reliable means of radio communication (and therefore that it would still work when all other modes fail) are completely unfounded opinions. Those die-hard fans of morse code will likely continue using it, even if the testing requirement is removed. There are many hams out there whom simply do not have the "ear" for morse code, and are prevented from obtaining HF privileges because of that. I am among those hams. Try as I might, I simply cannot learn the morse code patterns. I almost feel that those hams that are fighting to keep the morse code testing requirement are almost selfishly keeping me from entering the world of HF. I would love to learn morse code and upgrade from my Technician license. I will likely continue trying until at some point the FCC makes a revision to the licensing structure which will allow those of us who have tried and failed to learn morse code to advance in the hobby and service we love so much.

Morse code is not the begin-all and end-all of amateur radio. Other operating modes are equally reliable, and removing the testing requirement will take nothing away from it. Like those fighting to keep morse code, this is, of course, my opinion.